

THE SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION
CHAPTER XX
THE KENNETH WORTHLEY MEMORIAL CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

The "20/20" Flash

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The Next Chapter Business Meeting:

The next meeting is at the

Glockenspiel Restaurant Tues, Oct 7th, 2014.

The Glockenspiel is near downtown St. Paul, (605 7th St W) and the meeting starts at **7:00** pm. <http://www.glockenspielrestaurant.com/>

Some folks show up early for dinner, about 6:15. Some folks show up early and socialize until the meeting. Some folks just come to the meeting. Come on down.

Dues Dues Dues

It is that time again. Unfortunately I do not any of the paperwork, membership application or membership renewal forms, ready to include in this Newsletter. You can get the forms from the SFA website. I presume the forms, from last year, are still on the Chapter website. Either way, please send your forms and money through the Chapter (that way we get a small slice of your dues to cover some expenses) to:

Chapter XX, SFA
C/O Matt Mitlyng
3759 Tower Pond Road
Anoka, MN 55303-8308

Upcoming Activities:

Lao Fundraising Event: October 11th, the Flyer is attached.

Bob Ericson's Birthday Party: There will be a birthday party for Bob Ericson in October. I have, unfortunately, misplaced all of my information on the Party. It is on a Saturday, but I am not sure which Saturday.

At this point, and without permission, if you are interested in attending, please call Jack Running at 651-387-3762.

In WWII, Bob jumped into France. He was later run over by a tank and he met the Russians at the Elba River.

November 11th, Veterans Day: 11 am, be at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the Capitol Grounds in St. Paul.

Christmas Dinner: Dec 6th, read the Flyer.

After Action Report: Meeting Minutes:

The September Business Meeting was on 5 August and started at 7 pm. Present were
Jeff Arnold John Roy
Doug Bekke Bouachan Sinouthasy
Col. Khao Dan Kaiser
Bob Pike Jerry Carlson

John made a motion to accept August Meeting Minutes, as printed in the September Newsletter. Jeff seconded the motion and it was carried.

We covered All Airborne Days as an AARs: had a great time, the Midwest All Airborne did a great job.

For Upcoming Activities, we discussed the September 20th Chapter Picnic, the

Fort Snelling National Cemetery Memorial Stones (more to follow), the Lao Fundraiser (October 11th, please refer to the attached flyer—and Jeff Arnold said “These things are fun to go to.”), Veterans Day, and the Christmas Dinner.

We decided to use the October meeting to ask for volunteers to sponsor dinners for the Color Guard members and their dates. We will also look for volunteers to make toasts at the dinner.

Someone noted that Ray Nagel was going to Holland for the Market Garden Anniversary in September.

We discussed burial rights in National Cemeteries and VA benefits for the Lao. I have added a “Projects” section to this Newsletter. I did it so that the topics are clearer and, hopefully, their importance is more significant. Look for a discussion on this topic in the Projects section of this Newsletter.

Steve Hudson had made, and then donated to the Chapter, a replica of a Roger’s Rangers Tomahawk. It is a great replica and, by general consensus, we thought the Christmas Dinner Silent Auction maybe a good way to offer it to the Chapter members and friends, but no plans were set. We thought we would make plans at the October Business Meeting.

Doug Bekke discussed the Minnesota Military Museum’s “Featured Veteran of the Month.” It is a new recognition project and Jerry Huntington was it’s first Featured Veteran. Jerry was recognized for his years of support and dedication to the military, service members, and the Museum. The recognition included a presentation at Camp Ripley with supporting activities.

Dan Kaiser spoke on the Chapter sweatshirts. Dan’s issues and project details are discussed in the Projects section of this Newsletter. While the idea was acceptable, we, again, put off this decision until the next meeting.

Someone mentioned that the Chapter should send the sweatshirts to the Lao fund-

raiser to support their fundraising; Bouachan and Jeff will be taking care of that project.

Someone else asked that we consider giving a pink sweatshirts to Jen, the waitress who has taken care of us at the meetings for so long. The folks at the meeting thought it was a great idea and agreed to it.

Someone else mentioned our benefactor who provides the t-shirts and hats for fundraising. We drank a toast to him. (I would mention his name, but I am under the impression he would prefer his name not be used. He does not do this for the recognition, he does this for the Chapter and it’s members. Again, thank you.)

Dan then brought up his next idea: is the Chapter was interested in combining the Chapter Newsletter with the other Airborne association newsletters, under the auspices of the Midwest All Airborne Alliance, and sending out one newsletters for all of the organizations. (Again, details are in the Projects section of the Newsletter.)

Dan was given permission, as he talked to the other associations, to say that Chapter is interested in supporting this idea. As plans and details are worked out, the different associations will be asked to formally commit to the idea.

Jerry Carlson recommended the book “Abandon in Place” by Lynn O’Shea. Jerry then mentioned that the Minnesota MIA/POW newsletter will be going to email. He asked that anyone who is getting their MN MIA/POW newsletter by regular mail contact Rich Daley to get on the email list. Rich Daley’s contact info is in their newsletter.

There being no further business, John made a motion to close. Bob seconded the motion and it was carried.

The Nineteenth Annual Midwest All Airborne Alliance All Airborne Days were on Saturday, August 23rd at the Fort Snelling Contact Club. It was another great afternoon. The rain threatened but never showed up. A big thank you goes out to Jerry Huntington Jr for all the work he did setting it up. A big thank you also goes out

to all the folks that cooked and worked at the event.

The Annual Chapter Picnic was September 20th. It was a beautiful early fall day. The food was great, the company was better. A big thank you goes out to Karen and Dan Thorson for hosting and setting it up; and to the folks who brought the wonderful side dishes

Projects:

Lao Veteran's Issues: At the Chapter Business meeting, we discussed burial rights in National Cemeteries and VA benefits for the Lao. My handwritten notes for this section are not as clear as I thought they were when I was writing them. If I deciphered my notes well:

- Bob Pike will continue to research the topic,
- he will work with Col. Khao and Scott Walker,
- at the next meeting we will reiterate the information Bob presented at this meeting,
- we are planning to do something (a Chapter letter of support, etc) but we thought we did not have enough people at the meeting to do much more official stuff—yet,
- and I was supposed to put some form of a survey in this Newsletter. The survey was intended to get input from the Chapter members who can not attend the meetings.

At this point, I can not figure out what questions to ask you, or how to prompt your thoughts on the topic. But you can send your thoughts on this topic to 507-647-3526 or kais0063@umn.edu. Hopefully by the next newsletter, I will have more information for the Newsletter and a better idea of what to ask you on this topic.

Bob did present information on PUBLIC LAW 95-202 401 38 CFR 3.7, which may provide a way for our Lao, Hmong, and Khmer veterans to get burial in US Federal Cemeteries. (And, as discussed in an earlier meeting, the Khmer veterans are those that worked with the US before the Khmer Rouge took over.)

Bob also found laws that cover VA Benefits. As noted in the bullets above, Bob will be working with Col. Khao and Scott Walker on these issues.

In a related email from Scott Walker, Sep 20, 2014, Subject: Final push for H.Res.596 Veterans,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the sacrifices you have made in the past several months regarding the passage of our Veterans Resolution. Often the sacrifices made are not well noticed until a mission is done and finished. Your sacrifices will be made known when we accomplish our objectives.

Regarding the resolution. I am in constant contact with Congressman Duffy's office and continue to speak to staff members of key Congressmen.

The Resolution continues to gather cosponsors. December 12th is the last day of this congressional session. It is up to us to make it happen. There are many events in the world that the US Congress is focusing on. And while our resolution is historic, with regards to the Vietnam War, I continue to be optimistic about our chances in the house this year.

You are the weapon that must be used in the final passage. If you continue to press your congressman and recruit other veterans to cosponsor the resolution our chances improve.

You can follow the progress of the resolution by logging onto TrackGov.org and type H.Res.596 in the search box. It will take you to the resolution language, which committee it is presently in, and a list of cosponsors. If your congressman is not a cosponsor please call him or her and ask them to do so.

Ask other veterans to do the same. Time is running out for this year. We can reintroduce it in next session, but the momentum we have made will diminish and this resolution may go the way of others.

Our efforts are not going unnoticed. Recently I received an email from one the

IKA leaders in Cambodia and he sent us a picture with a number of veterans from the war. This is the very first group picture of former veterans who supported the US in Cambodia know to exist. This is astonishing as it was believed that most veterans were still in hiding.

This gives me both pause, as we know what they face daily, and renewed enthusiasm to see this mission to its end.

Again thank you for your efforts and devotion.

Scott Walker
CoSAV Director

Chapter Sweatshirts: At the Chapter Meeting, Dan spoke on the Chapter sweatshirts. He has found another company to embroider the sweatshirts. He had more sweatshirts made in time for the All Airborne Days. He has also ordered pink Chapter sweatshirts for the ladies, if they are interested.

Dan stated that the co-mingling of the sweatshirts and the t-shirts/hats (that are donated for fundraising) is causing him problems. He tries to keep the money separate, as a simple accounting issue, but he has not been able to do it well, yet.

Dan asked if the Chapter was willing to reimburse him for the cost of the sweatshirts so that all of the money could be treated the same (stuffed into one envelope; rather than using two envelopes, keeping track of the t-shirt/hat sales in one of the envelopes, screwing up the money anyway, trying to figure it out later, erring on the side of the Chapter, and then feeling guilty because he can't keep track of two silly envelopes.) While the idea was acceptable, we, again, put off the decision until the next meeting.

A combined Airborne Newsletter: At the Chapter meeting, Dan asked if the Chapter was interested in combining the Chapter Newsletter with the other Airborne association newsletters, under the auspices of the Midwest All Airborne Alliance, and sending

out one newsletters for all of the organizations.

The goals: (1) provide one newsletter so that if an SFA member wanted to hand it to a potential-173rd-member, then both groups would be in that one newsletter, etc; (2) provide support to other the airborne associations in sending out Newsletters; and (3) provide newsletters to Airborne folks, friends, etc, who do not belong to an association. That way we keep all of our Airborne brothers "in the loop."

The mechanics of the idea: four pages, printed front and back; the first section (masthead) is the Midwest All Airborne Alliance (MWAAA) and that section would include information common to all (the SFA Christmas Dinner, the 173rd's Corrigedor Dinner, the MWAAA's All Airborne Days) and information unique to the MWAAA (minutes, business, etc.). Sections (mastheads) for the different groups would follow, chosen randomly, initially, and then rotated each month.

Benefits: the goals mentioned above and reduced costs for the different organizations because of overlap on mailing lists, ie the SFA Newsletters gets mailed to a lot of 173rd and 82nd folks.

Dan was given permission, when he talks to the other associations, to say that Chapter is interested in supporting this idea. As plans and details are worked out, the different associations will be asked to formally commit to the idea.

As always: on the next DROP Input: If you have pictures or news for Chapter section of The Drop, please email the info and/or pictures to Ron Lachelt at Lachelts@gmail.com. You can also drop off your pictures or news at the next Chapter meeting. Thanks! Ron

Other Information:

From Ron Lachelt: I just finished reading the recently published BAC SI -A Green Beret Medic's War in Vietnam by Jerry Krizan. Jerry and **Mike Erkel** went through

SF medic training together and served in Viet Nam at the same time. Mike has his picture and name mentioned a couple of times in the book. A great book about a medic serving on team A-331 at Loc Ninh in 1968.

Another Chapter XX member is mentioned in Secret Green Beret Commandos in Cambodia by LTC Fred S. Lindsay. It is a memorial history of CCS. Sp4 **Loren "Oly" Olsen** is mentioned a couple of times in the book. This is huge book and is compiled based upon recollections of CCS members and their award descriptions. The original CCS records were destroyed, but the book still reads well. There are a lot of names that will be familiar to Chapter members of that era.

WWII History Roundtable: The Minnesota Historical Society and Historic Fort Snelling will have the next Dr. Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Table on October 23rd 2014. This Round Table is titled "Building the Death Railroad, Bridge on the River Kwai."

You can get more information at their website www.mn-ww2roundtable.org

Hopefully, next month I will include the Roundtables for the rest of the year.

From Dan Thorson: Thought some of the chapter folks might be interested in the SF and Special Operations bling. I hear he does nice work.

<http://www.specialoperationspins.com/>

Bob Pike sent information on a new POW/MIA movie, at <http://storytellerfilms.tv/>

I went to the website and it includes information on Stalin's Interpreter, Helicopter Warfare in Vietnam, and the History of Army Aviation.

Bob also mentioned a book about Lam Son 719, "The Price of Exit" by Tom Marshall.

From Mike Kendall: More fruits from the Star Wars research!!! Wonder how many we will sell to Israel?

http://www.boeing.com/defense-space/ic/des/hel_md_0514_vid.html

From the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Friday Digest: October 3, 2014

New Healthy Teaching Kitchen Cooking Classes. Veterans can now learn how to cook new and interesting recipes to support their health and wellness goals. Classes are provided through demonstration with the option to sample the recipe at the end of class. There is no appointment necessary. Patients can walk-in to 1B-102 at the Minneapolis VA Medical Center on the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except for holidays) from 2 - 3 p.m. This is a class intended for Veterans, however your encouragement is needed to get Veterans interested and participating in the classes. For questions contact Nicole Moore-Haries at [\(612\) 629-7391](tel:6126297391).

From <http://www.quotationspage.com>:

Live as brave men; and if fortune is adverse, front its blows with brave hearts.

Cicero (106 BC - 43 BC)

If you don't make mistakes, you're not working on hard enough problems. And that's a big mistake.

Frank Wilczek (1951 -)

You cannot make a man by standing a sheep on its hind legs. But by standing a flock of sheep in that position you can make a crowd of men.

Max Beerbohm (1872 - 1956)

It is impossible to defeat an ignorant man in argument.

William G. McAdoo (1863 - 1941)

If at first you don't succeed try, try again. If you fail even after these attempts, perhaps you're just stupid.

Devin J. Monroe (1983 -)